

April 21, 1983

CONTENTSPAGE

● Allin Deplores World View at Uppsala Peace Gathering (83068)	1
● Taylor Challenges Conference on Marriage, Family Ideas (83069)	5
● World Council Message Points to Assembly (83070)	7
● Church, Secular Writers Honored (83071)	10
● Picture Caption: Ministry in Cuba + 3 photos (83072)	12
● Notes to Editors	13
● Cartoon + 1 photo (83073)	

ALLIN DEPLORES WORLD VIEWAT UPPSALA PEACE GATHERING

DPS 83068

NEW YORK (DPS, April 21) -- Presiding Bishop John M. Allin, in remarks prepared for the opening of an international conference of Church leaders, declared that "our vision is a world shaped to accommodate anger and aggression," and told the gathering "our fellowship must witness to an alteration in our traditional ways of thinking about conflict."

Allin, Chief Pastor and Primate of the 2.9 million member Episcopal Church, is leading a worldwide delegation of Anglicans to the Christian World Conference on Life and Peace called by Archbishop Olof Sundby of Uppsala, Sweden. His remarks were delivered at the conference's opening session, April 20.

Allin's call echoed the theme set by Sundby in calling the conference: a theme that notes that "the Churches themselves have not always worked as peacemakers" and sets as one goal of the gathering a "working out of a Christian program of action for peace and disarmament."

DPS 83068/2

Although a primary focus of the Conference will be to seek a common statement on nuclear weapons, it is expected to have longterm value even if this goal is not reached because it brings together virtually all Christian perspectives and is likely to result in continuing dialogue and new regional and national programs of action among members.

In his remarks, Allin pressed for a view that looked beyond weaponry to acknowledge "the problem we face is sin." "We have come to accept aggression," he said, "as so inexorable a part of human nature that all talk of eliminating war is relegated to wishful thinking. We have no vision of the kingdom of God because we have no hope beyond our perceived innate instincts of violence."

Stating that "Our goal, brothers and sisters, must be, as Saint Paul enjoins us, to have our minds transformed," he said that the task of the Church was to use its moral persuasion to bar use of nuclear weapons, to bring about "communication, consultation and dialogue for survival" and to "move the institutions necessary for building up justice and supplying basic human needs."

The Uppsala conference is one of many events taking place this spring as Churches and ecumenical groups continue to bolster their peacemaking ministry. When Allin returns from Sweden, he will travel directly to Denver to lead a conference of Episcopalians in developing the work begun with the General Convention last September in New Orleans where the Church affirmed that ministry and approved a report "To Make Peace" which has become a major study resource for congregations and dioceses throughout the Church.

Shortly after the Episcopal Church conference adjourns, bishops of the Roman Catholic Church in the United States will gather in Chicago to debate a final draft of a pastoral letter calling for an end to the nuclear arms race.

Finally, a National Conference of Churches initiative is behind a growing nationwide effort to declare May 23-29 as "Peace with Justice" week to provide opportunity for Churches and other peacemaking groups to concentrate efforts on changing the economic priorities that many feel place a crushing burden on the programs and social services that meet human need.

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EDITORS: Bishop Allin's statement is attached.

Statement of Presiding Bishop John M. Allin delivered at Life and Peace
Conference, Uppsala, Sweden - April 20, 1983

He Who Lives by the Sword
Shall Die by the Sword

These words of our Lord may well be the epitaph of the twentieth century. In our lifetime, we have been the witnesses to victims of two world wars, numerous regional wars, innumerable civil wars, and endless ideological purges and senseless acts of fratricide. In World War II, 51 million people died. To quote my esteemed brother, the Bishop of London, Dr. Graham Leonard, who is both a scientist and a theologian, the problems of the world are not, "in the last resort, caused by ignorance and bad administration, but by human beings being violent, grasping, unjust, greedy and bitter." We must not delude ourselves with political or technological terms, we must not allow political slogans to become the opiate of the people of God, we must not be distracted from the fact that the problem we face is sin.

The issues the world faces are formidable, complex and real. As John Paul II reminds us, "A nuclear terror haunts our time." But, behind the weapons of mass destruction, behind the doomsday strategies, behind the assurance of mutual assured destruction and various mutually unacceptable options, lies that sinful part of human nature -- aggression. We have come to accept aggression as so inexorable a part of human nature that all talk of eliminating war has been relegated to wishful thinking. We have no vision of the Kingdom of God because we have no hope beyond our perceived innate instincts of violence. Our vision is a world built to accommodate anger and aggression.

The tragedy of the philosophy of the ineradicability of aggression is the mutual distortion of perception that occurs between nations in conflict. This ethnocentric perception leads one group to perceive and evaluate events based on their own interests and beliefs. The virtues of one's own side are magnified and its faults not seen, while an adversary's "evils" are exaggerated and its virtues ignored. Such a perception leads to polarization and heightens fear and insecurity on both sides. Fear and insecurity are the preamble to war. Need I elaborate in this assembly on the fruits of fear and insecurity when they become allies of distorted politicians?

DPS 83068/4

The task before us, brothers and sisters, is not to intensify the ethnocentric perceptions that make us enemies. Our task is not to justify the demonic theories of unconvertable human aggression. Our task is to emulate and advance international cooperation. Our fellowship must witness to an alteration in our traditional way of thinking about conflict — conflict on all levels of human transaction. We must preach the good news that all nations stand to gain by cooperation not by conflict. The preamble to the Constitution of UNESCO says, "wars begin in the minds of men." Our goal, brothers and sisters, must be, as Saint Paul enjoins, to have our minds transformed.

We live in a world of nuclear weapons, and we cannot cause the knowledge of how to make them disappear. But we know what would happen to the civilized world were these weapons ever to be used.

As Christians, we are called to apply our moral persuasion to prevent their use.

We live in a world that is dangerously divided and polarized. We know what will happen to our world if this state continues. As Christians, we are called to apply our moral persuasion to bring effective communication, consultation and dialogue for survival.

We live in a world of hunger, disease, injustice and oppression. We know that these conditions are the incubator of chaos. As Christians, we are called to apply our moral persuasion to move the institutions necessary for building up justice and supply basic human needs.

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Jesus Christ and gave us the work of handing on this reconciliation. (Romans 5:17-19)

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TAYLOR CHALLENGES CONFERENCE

ON MARRIAGE, FAMILY IDEAS

DPS 83069

PASADENA, Calif. (DPS, April 21) --Keynote speaker Charles Taylor challenged participants at a family life conference here to rethink commonly held beliefs and understandings about marriage and the family; then further challenged them to find ways to "nurture one another" (the conference theme) within the context of Christian marital and familial relationships.

Basing his talks on the Book of Common Prayer and the 1982 Report on Marriage of the General Convention's Standing Commission on Human Affairs and Health, the Church Divinity School of the Pacific professor pointed out that in Christian marriage a man and woman give themselves to each other for their mutual redemption. "Our expectation," he quoted from the report, "is not so much that marriage make us happy as that it make us whole."

This was one of the first conferences around the country to address the Church's awakening interest in family ministry and was the basis for a half-hour television program produced by the Communication office of the Episcopal Church Center. The program included interviews with a number of families as well as portions of the conference proceedings.

At the mid-March conference at All Saints Church, Taylor said, "Marriage is a mission we need to be trained for." We need to be taught about relationships, not roles. Contrary to the accepted belief that marriage is a private affair, "We need someone else to break into our privacy and tell us what is going on." And we need to acknowledge that conflict is the way to constructive growth in marriage.

Taylor noted the addition to the marriage service of a vow from the congregation which emphasizes the crucial importance of the community in Christian marriage. "This means that the sin of failure, if that should happen, is not all on the couple. It can also be laid at the door of the clergy for not counseling them properly, and on the congregation for not upholding them. It also says that the failure of a marriage is a concern to the community. It addresses the myth of privatism which keeps us from nurturing one another."

DPS 83069/2

The inclusion of the liturgy of the word in the service, Taylor said, "makes the profound point that marriage is to be nurtured by the Christian story ... and assumes that you're going to do those things which nurture the story."

Finally, the service emphasizes marriage as mission by the prayer "Give (the couple) such fulfillment of their mutual affection that they may reach out in love and concern for others."

In a second presentation, Taylor extended his observations from the "generating couple" to the family with children. The family has become an economic consuming, rather than producing, unit today, Taylor pointed out, and children, especially teenagers, tend to be a financial burden instead of a help. Parents, confused about their own value systems, hesitate to inflict them on their children. The norm is small, isolated, "nuclear" families, lacking roots, without the capability for interaction of a large family.

Therefore Taylor suggested that the church congregation is the extended family, offering the "structures, instruction and atmosphere which invite couples and families to nurture themselves by nurturing others."

Conference participants explored Taylor's challenges in workshop on Communications and Relationships, Families and Stress, Spirituality and Family Life, Making the Parish a Family, Alternative Family Styles (i.e., two families sharing a home, intergenerational home sharing, etc.) and Families and the Imagination.

More than 130 adults and 31 children attended the conference, which was sponsored by the Family Ministry Project and the Family Life and Human Sexuality Committee of the Program Group on Christian Social Relations, and was under the general direction of the Rev. Cynthia Samuel. The conference concluded with a eucharist in which the adults were joined by the children who had a parallel program underway during the day.

The program, entitled "Families Matter," was to be aired April 24 on Cable T.V. Copies of the tape are available for use in congregations or to place on local cable programs by contacting the Radio-T.V. office at the Episcopal Church Center, 815 2nd Avenue, New York, NY 10017.

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WORLD COUNCIL MESSAGE

POINTS TO ASSEMBLY

DPS 83070

GENEVA, (DPS, April 21) — In their annual Pentecost message, the presidents of the World Council of Churches call for a reaffirmation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the face of a world where "so many have lost a sense of meaning and spread meaninglessness around them."

Noting the theme of the forthcoming Assembly of the Council, "Jesus Christ — the Life of the World", they call upon "The Church and Christian people everywhere ... to affirm joyfully the Spirit both as the source and resource of their life and being, and of that of the world."

The Sixth Assembly will be held July 24 to August 10 in Vancouver, Canada and is expected to bring together thousands of Christians for worship, study, and reflection on the course and role of the Church for the rest of the century.

One of the six presidents of the Council is Dr. Cynthia Wedel, an Episcopal lay leader from Alexandria, Va. Presiding Bishop John M. Allin is a member of the central committee of the Council, which is chaired by Archbishop Edward W. Scott, primate of the Anglican Church of Canada.

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EDITORS: The Pentecost message of the Presidents of the World Council of Churches is attached.

DPS 83070/2

P E N T E C O S T 1983

Message from the Presidents of the
World Council of Churches

Throughout the centuries Christians have confessed the Holy Spirit as "the Lord and giver of life."

- At creation, when "the earth was without form and empty, and darkness was upon the face of the deep, the Spirit of God moved over the face of the waters" (Genesis 1:2). It was through the Spirit that God created light and life, and above all humanity, male and female, for good.

- When the people of Israel lost their way through disobedience or were in danger from outside powers, it was the Spirit who spoke and acted through those open to its discernment and power.

- It was to the believing heart of Mary that the announcement was given that life and light would become incarnate in her womb — Jesus Christ, the Son of God our Savior.

- It was in the Spirit that Jesus began his ministry in baptism and in proclaiming good news to the poor and liberty to the oppressed.

- At Pentecost, as the disciples gathered in prayer waiting for the promise made by the risen Christ, the Spirit came upon them and renewed their life, and opened their lips to proclaim the word of life, which was received by the multitude. The Church was born and went forth to witness to life as a gift from God in Christ to the world.

Once more, at Pentecost the Church and Christian people everywhere are called to affirm joyfully the Spirit both as the source and resource of their life and being, and of that of the world. This year we do so with special emphasis, because the theme for the Sixth Assembly of the World Council of Churches, meeting in Vancouver, Canada, on July 24 - August 10, will be "Jesus Christ - the Life of the world". We remember that Jesus said: "I am come that you may have life, and have it in all its fullness" (John 10:10). He also told his disciples: "It is the Spirit that gives life, the flesh is of no avail; the words that I have spoken to you are Spirit and life" (John 6:63).

Today, the forces of death seem overwhelming and threaten the very survival of human beings and of creation itself. Creation is in danger of returning to formless chaos, emptiness and darkness, through wars and possible nuclear annihilation. So many people feel empty because they have so much and are so little. So many have lost a sense of meaning in life, and spread meaninglessness around them by their acts and words of violence and death.

It is in such a world that the Church is called to proclaim in word and deed that God in Christ has filled our emptiness with life in the Spirit. It is by the Spirit that we who are divided by race, sex, class, religion and culture, are baptized into one living Body of Christ, sharing the varied gifts of God, especially the gift of love (I Cor. 12-13). And it is this gift of love which fills our life with meaning and purpose.

So, as we make our pilgrimage in the Spirit in every place and to the Assembly of the member churches at Vancouver, may we walk in the Spirit as we live by the Spirit in unity and love; sharing all that we are and have for the healing of the nations in peace and justice, and in fullness of life.

The Presidents of the World Council of Churches:

Hon. President: Rev. Dr. W. A. Visser't Hooft, Geneva Switzerland

His Holiness Ilia II, Catholicos and Patriarch of All Georgia, Georgian SSR

The Honourable Mrs. Justice A. R. Jiagge, Accra, Ghana

Prof. Jose Miguez-Bonino, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Dr. T. B. Simatupang, Jakarta-Pusat, Indonesia

Archbishop Olof Sundby, Uppsala, Sweden

Dr. Cynthia Wedel, Alexandria, Va. USA

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CHURCH, SECULAR

WRITERS HONORED

DPS 83071

NEW YORK (DPS, April 21) — The Communicant of the Diocese of North Carolina and the Canadian Churchman of the Anglican Church of Canada were winners once again at the annual convention of the Associated Church Press.

The Canadian Church's national monthly won the general excellence award for newspapers for the third consecutive year, while the Communicant -- edited by Christopher Walters-Bugbee -- received four merit awards. An article by Episcopal Bishop John S. Spong of Newark garnered a best feature award for the monthly Ecumenical Trends, published by the Atonement Friars.

During the same period in March, two secular newspapers were honored with the William E. Leidt award for excellence in religious reporting which is given each year by the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church.

In those awards, Peter Geiger and Ancella Livers of the Akron (Ohio) Beacon-Journal and Lynn Tufts of the Waterbury (Conn.) Sunday Republican were hailed by the Missouri journalism school judges for extensive series that explored "electronic" religion (Akron) and inner-city churches' money woes.

The Episcopal Church award was created with a legacy honoring Leidt and is awarded by Council to encourage secular newspapers -- and their religion writers -- to give greater consideration to the role that religion plays in the lives of many Americans. In an increasing number of daily papers, the religion beat is no longer relegated to a single "Church" page once a week, but is considered part of the regular news report.

For the last few years, the contest has been judged by Dean Del Brinkman of the William Allen White School of Journalism at the University of Missouri and by associate deans Dana Leibengood and Mary Wallace.

In their comments on the 11-part series done by Geiger and Livers, the judges called it a "product of outstanding interviewing and writing on a very timely topic of widespread interest."

DPS 83071/2

Tufts -- who was honored as outstanding in the smaller newspaper category -- did a five-part series on the financial problems of inner-city churches and synagogues that the judges said "should be a model for newspapers in other cities."

The Associated Church Press is an organization of publications of religious organizations: denominational national and regional magazines and newspapers; and ecumenical and non-sectarian journals and papers.

The Communicant, a consistent winner in recent years, was cited for best cover, black and white; best front page; best magazine graphics for an entire issue; and for the use of humor. In the latter category, the judges said of Walters-Bugbee's work: "slightly outrageous as humor can be, but not tasteless."

In addition to its general excellence award, the Churchman was cited for best news story for a piece by editor Jerry Hames entitled "Nuclear Weapons Strategy Condemned" which the judges called "a solid wrapup of a week-long conference."

Spong's piece in Ecumenical Trends, "Sexual Stereotypes in the Life of the Church," was called a "well-written and well-organized piece," which "minces no words in tackling a controversial subject."

The overall winner, with a general excellence award and four merit awards, was the U.S. Catholic, published by Claretian Publications.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

The Episcopal Church Center is accepting applications for two openings.

The first is for Executive, National Mission In Church & Society. This position on the administrative group at the Episcopal Church Center is responsible directly to the Presiding Bishop for overseeing and coordinating the Church's programs in hunger, public issues, social responsibility in investment, social and specialized ministries and ethnic ministries. Strong skills in administration, staff coordination, planning and public presentation are required as well as an ability to build relationships among various constituent groups and staffs.

The second position, Assistant to the Administrative Services Manager, includes responsibility for building inspection, inventory control, and maintenance scheduling. Good verbal skills, knowledge of building and plant facilities and physical dexterity are required.

Persons may inquire about these positions to the Personnel Officer, the Episcopal Church Center, 815 2nd Avenue, New York, NY 10017.

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